



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**  
Peter Goldmark - Commissioner of Public Lands

## Proposed Protection Island Aquatic Reserve Planning Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Prepared By: Michael Grilliot

Jan 27th, 2010

Conference Room, Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Sequim, WA

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**PARTICIPANTS:** **Betty Bookheim** (Washington State Department of Natural Resources), **Diana Hughes** (Jefferson County Beach Watchers), **Dave Peeler** (People for Puget Sound), **David Freed** (Clallam County MRC/Beach Watchers), **David Gluckman** (Admiralty Audubon), **Jill Silver** (10,000 Years Institute), **John Cambalik** (Puget Sound Partnership), **John Miller** (Clallam County Department of Community Development), **John Woolley** (Friends of Miller Peninsula State Park), **Darlene Schanfald** (Friends of Miller Peninsula State Park), **Kevin Ryan** (USFWS), **Kyle Murphy** (Washington State Department of Natural Resources), **Lorenz Sollmann** (USFWS), **Megan Black** (Diamond Point Property Owners), **Michael Grilliot** (Washington State Department of Natural Resources), **Peter Downey** (Shellfish Industry), **Ross Anderson** (Cape George Colony Club), **Simeon Baldwin** (U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary), **Soren Prip** (Sequim Yacht Club), **Tony Petrillo** (Jefferson County MRC), **Torben Blichfeld** (Sequim Yacht Club)

### INTRODUCTIONS:

Introductions of Planning Advisory Committee members began at 12:40pm

### RESERVES PROGRAM:

*The meeting began by DNR briefing the committee members on DNR and the Aquatic Reserves Program:*

A few general questions were raised about the reserves program and the designation process.

### COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:

*The committee work plan and committee member roles and responsibilities were then outlined and opened for discussion:*

It was asked that DNR develop and present an outreach strategy to ensure proper and sufficient dissemination of information to the public. Additionally, it was suggested that DNR send mailings to residents adjacent to the reserve to ensure their knowledge of the reserve.

It was agreed that an additional Planning Advisory Committee meeting will be held after the fourth meeting.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT OF PLAN:

*The official boundaries of the proposed reserve were then discussed.*

An issue was raised concerning the southern boundary of the reserve related to the entrance to Discovery Bay. It was suggested that the boundary extend from Diamond Point to Cape George than from Thompson Spit to Cape George. There was a general consensus to investigate this change, including conducting outreach to the Diamond Point Community. It was also suggested that the Jefferson County Shoreline Master Plan be consulted in reference to the Diamond Point boundary expansion.

*After a short break, the committee created a list of issues and uses to consider during the development of the management plan (subject to change).*

The list is as follows in alphabetical order:

- Beach Cleanup
- Citizen Science
  - + Cape George
  - + Beachwatchers
- Conservation Connectivity to Other Efforts
- Derelict Gear Removal
- Dredge Disposal Site
- Education Opportunities
  - + Ecotourism/Education/Impacts
  - + Environmental Education
- Energy Development
  - + Offshore Marine Hydropower
- Haulouts
- Mineral Extraction
- Nuisance and Invasive Species
- Outreach During Plan Development
- Partnership Involvement Process
  - + Interagency Coordination
- Persistent Toxins
  - + Coordination with EPA, DOE...
  - + Mercury, etc...
- Public Use and Access
- Scientific Research
  - + Climate Change
    - Ocean Acidification
    - Federal Coordination
  - + Eel Grass
  - + Forage Fish
  - + Habitat Identification
    - Rockfish
  - + Kelp Beds
  - + Monitoring Buoys
    - Domoic Acid

- PSP
  - + Puffin/Bird Populations
  - Shoreline Alterations
  - Tribal Use and Cultural Resources
  - Wildstock Geoduck Harvest

## CONSERVATION TARGETS:

*Conservation Targets outlined by the site proponent (People For Puget Sound) and the Technical Advisory Committee were compared and discussed.*

It was brought to the attention of the committee that NOAA is currently collecting fish seining data for the Elwha River Dam Removal Project and should contact them to see if they will share their data.

More information was requested pertaining to the wildstock geoduck populations in the proposed aquatic reserve boundary. More information was also requested in the form of maps for several seabird species observations and forage fish spawning habitat.

Several target species/habitat/conditions were added to the Technical Advisory Committee's recommendations with the draft list appearing below (subject to change):

### Aquatic Vegetation and Habitat

- Supports a unique, submerged vegetation community. High diversity and abundance of three species of sea grasses and deepwater beds of *Zostera marina* (eelgrass), *Phyllospadix* spp.
- Wide-bladed *Desmerestia* spp. is the dominant species in an area of Dallas Bank. This native species of large brown algae normally dominates marine habitats in South America, rather than Puget Sound.
- Kelp beds and shallow sandy shelf support fish, bird, and mammalian species forage and rearing areas
- Extremely strong bottom currents on the outer bank move kelp, and the rocks they are attached to, to depths where they do not usually occur.
- Contains pre-spawn holding area for Discovery Bay herring and sand lance spawning beaches
- Species: *Nereocystis* Kelp, *Zostera marina*, *Phyllospadix* spp., *Desmerestia* spp., Red algae, Brown algae, Green algae

### Fish and Crustacean Populations

- High diversity and abundance of benthic (bottom) fish and crustaceans.
- Area used extensively by juvenile salmonids from spawning rivers outside the region.
- WDFW trawl surveys have identified 140 different fish species within the proposed boundaries.
- Species: Rockfish, Rockfish (Juvenile), Salmon, Salmon (Juvenile), Lingcod, Halibut, Kelp Greenling, Pacific herring, Pacific Sandlance, Cabezone, Dungeness crabs, Mysids, Crab, Epibenthic shrimps, Amphipods, Isopods, Copepods

## Bird Populations

- Pigeon Guillemots, Tufted Puffins and Rhinoceros Auklets are supported by strong benthic and pelagic habitats
- Marbled Murrelets are supported over the winter
- Marbled Murrelets and Harlequin Duck are supported year round while many more species are supported during the winter months (Common loons, Brants, Surf Scoters)
- Species: Black oystercatchers, Brown Pelican, Double-crested cormorant, Marbled Murrelets, Pelagic cormorant, Rhinoceros auklets, Surf scoters, Western Grebes, Horned Grebe, Bald Eagle, Brants, Common loon, Red-throated loon, Glaucous-winged gulls, Harlequin duck, Pigeon Guillemots, Tufted Puffins

## Mammal Populations

- Islands are important seal pupping and haul out site due to the lack of predators and human disturbance.
- Area around island is important feeding grounds for Southern Resident J, K and L Orca Pods.
- Species: Harbor Seal, Elephant Seal, Stellar Sea Lion, Southern Resident Orcas, Gray Whales

## Geomorphology and Oceanography

- Feeder bluffs and nearshore drift cells support spawning marine fish and vegetation.
- Diversity of depths and bottom types throughout the reserve area present opportunity for equally diverse subtidal and nearshore habitats
- Areas of high tidal convergence of three water bodies, with strong tidal currents in Admiralty Inlet support upwelling of nutrient rich water.
- Different substrates with varying exposure to currents result in highly diverse flora and fauna

## Other Recommendations Discussed

- Support USFWS management of 200 yard buffer around Protection Island
- Managed access for educational and recreational opportunities and scientific research should be included in the management plan.
- Restrict all activities that disrupt/destroy oceanographic or geomorphic conditions
- Restrict all activities that disrupt/destroy breeding and foraging habitat
- Facilitate coordination with other agencies to prioritize the reserve area for conservation measures
- Removal of creosote lumber bulkhead and restoring the native shoreline on Protection Island.
- Include derelict fishing gear removal activities in the site management plan

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

It was stressed that the public be kept informed as much as possible during this process, especially regarding the conservation targets list and how it is perceived by the public. The fact that some people may construe the conservation target list as a restriction of some kind, for example fishing, was acknowledged and that every effort must be made to ensure clarity during the management plan development process.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no members of the public present and no public comment recorded.

**CLOSING:**

The meeting was concluded at 3:00pm